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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GLOBAL ECONOMY

1. Decisive Game in Geneva

Lead editorial in center-right O Estado de S. Paulo (07/14) comments: "The most influential trade negotiators will meet in Geneva within a week to try to save the Doha Round before the new U.S. president takes office. ... The positions never were so close, and yet, it is still necessary to eliminate important differences on market access conditions. ... There will be a tough game, in Geneva, during the week of the 21st. The European representative, Peter Mandelson, will be pressured by protectionist interests, especially defended by the French government. U.S. representative Susan Schwab will speak on behalf of a government at the end of its term. Among the developing nations there are still important differences. But the game is too important fatalistically to accept a new failure."

2. Cherry without a Cake

In an opinion article in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (07/14) former Brazilian Environmental Minister Marina Silva opines: "The international trade rounds on global warming, with some exceptions, became a routine of failures or near-failures that, far from causing discomfort, seem to be a calculated strategy to postpone responsibilities. ... The intractable position of the rich countries serves as a shield for the inertia of other countries, which sometimes give excellent speeches, but seem to rely on the disaccord of the "big" countries in order not to have to move beyond that." White